

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1-66. (Cancelled)

67. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

for each of a plurality of media access control (MAC) devices to which data is to be transmitted over a ring topology network, providing a corresponding queue, wherein each corresponding queue is configured to transmit data in a first egress direction and a second egress direction over the ring topology network;

receiving data, from a local client, destined for a client of a first MAC device of the plurality of MAC devices;

storing at least a portion of the data in a first queue corresponding to the first MAC device;

receiving information generated by the client of the first MAC device indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device, wherein the information is generated by the client of the first MAC device in response to the client of the first MAC device determining that the client of the first MAC device is receiving data at a rate exceeding a set threshold;

receiving information indicating a bandwidth limitation for each link of the ring topology network between the local client and the first MAC device; and

selectively transmitting data stored in the first queue to the first MAC device, wherein

a rate at which the selectively transmitting is performed is based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the

first MAC device and at least in part on the information indicating a bandwidth limitation for each link of the ring topology network between the local client and the first MAC device, and

the selectively transmitting further comprises transmitting data stored in the first queue in a selected one of the first egress direction and the second egress direction.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 further comprising:
 providing a second queue corresponding to the first MAC device to which data is to be transmitted over the network;
 storing at least another portion of the data destined for a client of the first MAC device in the second queue; and
 selectively transmitting data stored in the second queue to the first MAC device;
 wherein a rate at which the selectively transmitting of data stored in the second queue is performed is based at least in part on one of:
 the at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device; and
 at least another portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the first queue is for data having a first priority level, and wherein the second queue is for data having a second priority level.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 further comprising:
 providing a second queue corresponding to a second MAC device to which data is to be transmitted over the network;
 receiving data destined for a client of the second MAC device;

storing at least a portion of the data destined for the client of the second MAC device in the second queue; and
selectively transmitting data stored in the second queue to the second MAC device;
wherein a rate at which the selectively transmitting of data stored in the second queue is performed is based at least in part on information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the client of the second MAC device.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the first queue is provided in a memory coupled to at least one of another MAC device and a client of the another MAC device.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the first queue is provided in one of a memory of a second MAC device and a memory of a client of the second MAC device.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the information indicating a need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device includes at least one of: a MAC device address, a data transmission rate, a ramp factor, a threshold value, a network link bandwidth value, and a flag.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the information indicating a need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device is received from at least one of the first MAC device, the client of the first MAC device, another MAC device, and a client of the another MAC device.

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 further comprising:
receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted on a first network link between the first MAC device and another MAC device; and

selectively transmitting data being selectively transmitted to the client of the first MAC device; wherein another rate at which the selectively transmitting of data being selectively transmitted is performed is based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the first network link.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the first network link includes at least one of: a MAC device address, a data transmission rate, a ramp factor, a threshold value, a network link bandwidth value, and a flag.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 further comprising: receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted on a first network link between the first MAC device and another MAC device, wherein the rate at which the selectively transmitting is performed is further based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the first network link.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 further comprising: transmitting information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to at least one of another MAC device and a client of the another MAC device.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79 further comprising: determining an extent to which a data buffer associated with the client of the another MAC device contains data; and preparing the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the at least one of the another MAC device and the client of the another MAC device.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the network is at least one of a metropolitan area network (MAN) and a resilient packet ring (RPR) network.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device is received in a resilient packet ring (RPR) fairness message.

83. (Cancelled)

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device further comprises at least one of: information indicating the need to reduce the amount of data being transmitted, and information indicating the need to increase the amount of data being transmitted.

85. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first media access control (MAC) device operable to be coupled to a ring topology network;

a buffer coupled to the first MAC device and operable to receive data from the first MAC device;

a packet processor coupled to the buffer;

a first plurality of queues, wherein each of the first plurality of queues corresponds to one of a plurality of respective network stations, and each queue is configured to transmit data in a first egress direction and a second egress direction over the ring topology network; and

~~at least one for each queue of the first plurality of queues, a corresponding~~ shaper circuit, ~~the at least one a first corresponding~~ shaper circuit being configured to dequeue data stored in ~~at least one a first queue~~ of the first plurality of queues based at least in part on first information and second information, wherein

~~at least a portion of information indicating~~ first information indicates
a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the
respective network station corresponding to the ~~at least one~~ first
queue of the first plurality of queues, wherein said information is
generated by a client of the network station, in response to the
client of the network station determining that the client of the
network station is receiving data at a rate exceeding a set
threshold, and
second information indicates a bandwidth limitation for each link of
the ring topology network between the first MAC device and
the network station corresponding to the first queue.

86. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the network is at least one of a metropolitan area network (MAN) and a resilient packet ring (RPR) network.

87. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the buffer has at least one associated threshold value, and wherein at least one of the first MAC device, the buffer, the packet processor, the ~~at least one~~ first corresponding shaper circuit, and a comparison circuit is further configured to compare the at least one associated threshold value to an indication of an amount of data in the buffer.

88. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 87 wherein at least one of the first MAC device, the buffer, the packet processor, the ~~at least one~~ first corresponding shaper circuit, and the comparison circuit is further configured to prepare a message including information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to a network station that includes the first MAC device.

89. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 87 wherein at least one of the first MAC device, the buffer, the packet processor, the ~~at least one~~ first corresponding shaper circuit, and the comparison circuit is further configured to determine at least one

of a data transmission rate and a ramp factor corresponding to a network station that includes the first MAC device.

90. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the first MAC device includes control logic configured to prepare a message for transmission on the network including an indication to change a rate at which data is transmitted to the a network station that includes the first MAC device.

91. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the first plurality of queues is received in a resilient packet ring (RPR) fairness message.

92. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85 further comprising:
a second plurality of queues, wherein each of the second plurality of queues corresponds to a respective network station, each of the first plurality of queues is configured to store data having a first priority, and each of the second plurality of queues is configured to store data having a second priority.

93. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 92 wherein the ~~at least one~~ first corresponding shaper circuit is further configured to dequeue data stored in at least one of the second plurality of queues based at least in part on at least a portion of information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to a respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the second plurality of queues.

94. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 93 wherein the at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the second plurality of queues is the same as the at least a portion of the information

indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the first plurality of queues.

95. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the first plurality of queues includes at least one of: a MAC device address, a data transmission rate, a ramp factor, a threshold value, a network link bandwidth value, and a flag.

96. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the first plurality of queues is received from at least one of the respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the first plurality of queues and another network station.

97. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the **first corresponding** shaper circuit is a part of one of the first MAC device and the packet processor.

98. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85 further comprising:
a link shaper circuit, the link shaper circuit being configured to transmit data from
at least one of the first plurality of queues based at least in part on at least
a portion of information indicating a need to change an amount of data
being transmitted on a network link between a first network station and a
second network station.

99. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 98 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the network link includes at least one of: a MAC device address, a data transmission rate, a ramp factor, a threshold value, a network link bandwidth value, and a flag.

100. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the respective network station corresponding to the at least one of the first plurality of queues further comprises at least one of: information indicating the need to reduce the amount of data being transmitted, and information indicating the need to increase the amount of data being transmitted.

101. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

- a first means for receiving and queuing data destined for one of a plurality of ring topology network stations, wherein
 - each of the plurality of ring topology network stations has a corresponding means for receiving and queuing data, and
 - each means for receiving and queuing data is configured to transmit data in a first egress direction and a second egress direction over the ring topology network;
- a first means for receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to a client of the network station, wherein said information is generated by the client of the network station, **in response to the client of the network station determining that the client of the network station is receiving data at a rate exceeding a set threshold;**
- a first means for selectively transmitting data stored in the first means for receiving and queuing to the network station, wherein
 - a rate at which the first means for selectively transmitting data transmits data is based at least in part on **first information and second information, wherein**
 - first information comprises** at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the network station, and
 - second information indicates a bandwidth limitation for each link of the ring topology network between the first**

**MAC device and the network station corresponding to
the first queue, and**

the selectively transmitting data further comprises transmitting data stored in the first means for receiving and queuing data destined for one of the plurality of network stations in a selected one of the first egress direction and the second egress direction over the ring topology network; and

a processor coupled to the first means for receiving and queuing data destined for one of a plurality of network stations, wherein the processor is configured to process the data destined for one of a plurality of network stations.

102. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101 further comprising:
a second means for receiving and queuing data destined for the network station.

103. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102 wherein the first means for selectively transmitting data is further configured for selectively transmitting data stored in the second means for receiving and queuing to the network station.

104. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the network station includes at least one of: a MAC device address, a data transmission rate, a ramp factor, a threshold value, a network link bandwidth value, and a flag.

105. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101 further comprising:
a second means for receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted on a network link between a first network station and a second network station; and
a second means for selectively transmitting data transmitted by the first means for selectively transmitting data, wherein a rate at which the second means for selectively transmitting data transmits data is based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the first network link.

106. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 105 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the first network link includes at least one of: a MAC device address, a data transmission rate, a ramp factor, a threshold value, a network link bandwidth value, and a flag.

107. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101 further comprising:
a means for transmitting information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to another network station.

108. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 107 further comprising:
a means for determining an extent to which a means for buffering contains data;
and
a means for preparing the information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to another network station.

109. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 101 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the network station further comprises at least one of information indicating the need to reduce the amount of data being transmitted, and information indicating the need to increase the amount of data being transmitted.

110. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium comprising program instructions executable on a processor, wherein the program instructions are operable to implement each of:

for each of a plurality of media access control (MAC) devices to which data is to be transmitted over a ring topology network, providing a corresponding queue wherein each queue is configured to transmit data in a first egress direction and a second egress direction over the ring topology network;
receiving data, from a local client, destined for a client of a first MAC device of the plurality of MAC devices;
storing at least a portion of the data in a first queue corresponding to the first MAC device;

receiving information generated by the client of the first MAC device indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device, wherein the information is generated by the client of the first MAC device in response to the client of the first MAC device determining that the client of the first MAC device is receiving data at a rate exceeding a set threshold;

receiving information indicating a bandwidth limitation for each link of the ring topology network between the local client and the first MAC device; and

selectively transmitting data stored in the first queue to the first MAC device, wherein

a rate at which the selectively transmitting is performed is based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device, and at least in part on the information indicating a bandwidth limitation for each link of the ring topology network between the local client and the first MAC device, and

the selectively transmitting further comprises transmitting data stored in the first queue in a selected one of the first egress direction and the second egress direction.

111. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 further comprising program instructions operable to implement:

providing a second queue corresponding to the first MAC device to which data is to be transmitted over the network;

storing at least another portion of the data destined for a client of the first MAC device in the second queue; and

selectively transmitting data stored in the second queue to the first MAC device; wherein a rate at which the selectively transmitting of data stored in the second queue is performed is based at least in part on one of:

the at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device; and

at least another portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device.

112. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 111 wherein the first queue is for data having a first priority level, and wherein the second queue is for data having a second priority level.

113. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 further comprising program instructions operable to implement:

providing a second queue corresponding to a second MAC device to which data is to be transmitted over the network;

receiving data destined for a client of the second MAC device;

storing at least a portion of the data destined for the client of the second MAC device in the second queue; and

selectively transmitting data stored in the second queue to the second MAC device; wherein a rate at which the selectively transmitting of data stored in the second queue is performed is based at least in part on information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the client of the second MAC device.

114. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 wherein the first queue is provided in a memory coupled to at least one of another MAC device and a client of the another MAC device.

115. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 wherein the first queue is provided in one of a memory of a second MAC device and a memory of a client of the second MAC device.

116. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 wherein the information indicating a need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device includes at least one of: a MAC device address, a data transmission rate, a ramp factor, a threshold value, a network link bandwidth value, and a flag.

117. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 wherein the information indicating a need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device is received from at least one of the first MAC device, the client of the first MAC device, another MAC device, and a client of the another MAC device.

118. (Cancelled)

119. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 further comprising program instructions operable to implement:

receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted on a first network link between the first MAC device and another MAC device; and
selectively transmitting data being selectively transmitted to the first MAC device; wherein another rate at which the selectively transmitting of data being selectively transmitted is performed is based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the first network link.

120. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the first network link includes at least one of: a MAC device address, a data transmission rate, a ramp factor, a threshold value, a network link bandwidth value, and a flag.

121. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 further comprising program instructions operable to implement:

receiving information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted on a first network link between the first MAC device and another MAC device, wherein the rate at which the selectively transmitting is performed is further based at least in part on at least a portion of the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted on the first network link.

122. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 further comprising program instructions operable to implement:

transmitting information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to at least one of another MAC device and a client of the another MAC device.

123. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 122 further comprising program instructions operable to implement:

determining an extent to which a data buffer associated with the client of the another MAC device contains data; and
preparing the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the another MAC device.

124. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 wherein the network is at least one of a metropolitan area network (MAN) and a resilient packet ring (RPR) network.

125. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 wherein the information indicating a need to change an amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device is received in a resilient packet ring (RPR) fairness message.

126. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 110 wherein the information indicating the need to change the amount of data being transmitted to the client of the first MAC device further comprises at least one of: information indicating the need to reduce the amount of data being transmitted, and information indicating the need to increase the amount of data being transmitted.

127. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the local client is a device or entity that invokes the service interface of a MAC device, and the local client is associated with a station in a ring network.